

insurance from tax penalties, and sixth, allows the accelerated payment of death benefits from life insurance for the terminally or chronically ill to be paid tax-free.

These are common-sense approaches to a problem faced by more and more families every day and they are long overdue.

Finally, the tax relief bill increases the current estate and gift tax exemption over a 3-year period of time from \$600,000 to \$750,000. Through this modest change, seniors will be able to pass along their family business or family farm to their children and grandchildren without passing along an unmanageable tax burden as well.

In addition to these pro-senior provisions in the tax cut bill, the House overwhelmingly passed H.R. 660—which I am cosponsoring—to ensure that seniors will not be unfairly discriminated against for living in senior housing communities. These communities allow seniors to live amongst their peers and often provide access to services of particular need to seniors—such as periodic blood pressure screenings by local medical personnel.

Despite their increasing popularity amongst the senior population, vague language in the Fair Housing Act has left these communities vulnerable to litigation claiming that they discriminate against younger families. Furthermore, proposed HUD interpretations of this language have placed an insurmountable financial burden on these communities, requiring extravagant services and facilities to qualify for Fair Housing Act exemptions.

The language of H.R. 600 clarifies the definition of an "adult-only" housing community as a residential area consisting of a population of at least 80 percent seniors aged 55 and older. With this clarification, seniors will be able to form neighborhoods which conform to the unique needs of their retirement years without fear of unfair litigation or retribution.

I am proud to have supported each of these measures over my tenure in Congress and to have cosponsored them as part of the Contract With America as well. It is a credit to these past 100 days that we have soundly approved these proposals as the crowning achievement of the contract. America's seniors deserve no less.

THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
CLASP CHILDREN'S CENTER

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 1995

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my constituents and residents of the Great Neck community in honoring the CLASP Children's Center as they celebrate this organization's 20th anniversary.

In 1975, with the support of a local chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women, CLASP was founded by a group of working parents. Over the years, CLASP has grown in size and developed such an exemplary program that it has been accredited by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs. Set in a safe, challenging, and noncompetitive surrounding, children are offered a variety of activities that encourage them to express their creativity, and to develop friendships and positive social skills. CLASP reaches out to a vari-

ety of age groups and has established a preschool program for students 2 to 4 years old, before and after school programs for children attending the elementary schools in the Great Neck School District, and a 4-H Club for 8- to 10-year-old participants.

Realizing that CLASP is part of a most dynamic community, the organization joined in 1983 with the Great Neck Senior Center to provide an intergenerational program merging the children and the seniors of the area. This has resulted in a most successful and widely acclaimed effort, giving both age groups a feeling of support and appreciation.

CLASP has also had the good fortune to be able to draw upon the community for continuous support and creative leadership. On its 20th anniversary, as it celebrates this special milestone in this successful growth, CLASP is recognizing a group of individuals who have played a most effective role in helping it grow into such a renowned organization. Irene Lichtenstein has served as a founder and board member; Arlene Kase, current educational coordinator, was a president, board member, and a dynamic supporter of CLASP for legislative issues; Hon. May Newberger, town supervisor of North Hempstead, has for years championed family issues and consistently emerged as a supporter; Rabbi Robert S. Widom, spiritual leader of Temple Emanuel in Great Neck, has taken an ever-present role in community leadership that has greatly benefited CLASP; and Ann Durham, a long-time board member, was effective in assisting CLASP to obtain its initial funding.

Mr. Speaker, from its humble beginnings in a garage in Great Neck, CLASP has compiled over two decades of success, thanks to selfless individuals who have provided exemplary leadership and resources, and a dedicated parent group and a staff that has consistently sought to bring out the best in its students. I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join with me today in recognizing and applauding the CLASP Children's Center, and in congratulating CLASP on its 20 years of dedicated service and outstanding success.

TRIBUTE TO WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 1995

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Ontario, CA, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary on April 23.

The Westminster Church has a dynamic history which I would like to share with my colleagues. The Westminster Church was organized in 1895 when Rev. H.M. MacLeod and 58 members established a Presbyterian Church in Ontario. On August 4, 1895, services were held in the first unit of the new church building at Euclid and E Street in Ontario. This new building was formally dedicated on November 9, 1902.

Due to the rapid growth of the church after World War II, the need for a modern and enlarged church building became apparent. Under the leadership of Rev. C. Eugene Barnard and with the approval of the congrega-

tion, construction of a new church building began. A ground breaking ceremony for the present sanctuary was held on June 15, 1958, with Rev. Raymond H. Gordon as interim pastor.

The Westminster Presbyterian Church operates a day care center, which has been its principal mission since the center's inception on October 6, 1969. The day care center building, known as the Christian education unit, was erected under the leadership of Rev. Don Hawthorne in April 1967 and is also used for Christian education on Sunday. Founded and organized by Directors Helen Brewster and Evelyn Hoehn, the day care center cares for approximately 128 preschool children. Over the years, the directors and staffs of the center have met the needs of each child with a spirit of Christian love and genuine concern.

In March 1975, David T. Anderson came from Paisley, Scotland, with his family to assume the pastorate of Westminster Presbyterian Church.

At this time, I would like to pay special recognition to the church's current minister, Rev. David Mote, who has been providing spiritual guidance for members of the Westminster Church since June 1993, and to Joanne McAleer, who recently became the new director of ministries and volunteer activities. Their dedication to their calling is to be commended.

This past year, the congregation participated in a miracle Sunday, collecting pledges of over \$200,000 in 1 day, to refurbish the church facility in anticipation of its centennial celebration. In celebration of its anniversary, the church will be having a centennial high tea complete with period costumes and an old-fashioned song fest, tours, an art show, the opening of the church's 1958 time capsule, and refreshments.

Westminster Presbyterian Church has served the community in Ontario for over 99 years. Over the years, former ministers, assistant ministers, and church members have made valued contributions to the church. Although I am not able to mention them all by name, I wish to pay tribute to all who have been involved in the church's ministry over the years.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to come before my colleagues today to recognize the dedication and care with which the Westminster Presbyterian Church has served Ontario and its surrounding communities. I ask my colleagues to take a moment and join me in congratulating the Westminster Presbyterian Church on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

UNITED STATES-RUSSIAN
PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 1995

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, under the United States-Russian Partnership for Peace, the United States made a financial commitment to aid Russia's struggling economy in exchange for Russia's cooperation and compliance with international agreements. A reduced threat and defense burden were the expected outcome of the partnership. But after \$12 billion worth of United States investment